

VZCZCXRO7706
PP RUEHAG RUEHROV
DE RUEHTC #2362 3061536
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 021536Z NOV 06
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7293
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 0434
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1685
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 1138
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU 0112
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 2136
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 0425
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA 0112
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 0405

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002362

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/03/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ELTN](#) [RS](#) [MD](#) [UP](#) [NL](#)
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/TRANSNISTRIA: DISRUPTION OF
CHISINAU-MOSCOW RAIL LINKS

REF: STATE 181103

Classified By: A/DCM Andrew J. Schofer; reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche Nov 1 to MFA Deputy Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia Division Thymen Kouwenaar and Moldova Desk Officer Natascha Soons. Kouwenaar said that the MFA was reviewing a frozen conflicts proposal delivered by us to the Dutch embassy in Washington last week, but that initial impressions in The Hague were positive. He said that he agreed with "our assessment" that Transnistria might be a place where some progress could be made. By contrast, he believed the Russians would remain intransigent on Georgia for some time.

[1](#)2. (C) Soons thought that the Ukrainian failure to reopen the bridge at Mogilev-Podolsk was due, at least in part, to attempts by the Moldovans to raise customs duties. She suggested that, as part of any resolution of the rail and bridge problems, the Moldovans could be encouraged to reconsider the customs issue. Neither she nor Kouwenaar committed the GONL to raising reftel request with the Russian and Ukrainian governments. Kouwenaar, however, said that he thought the U.S. proposal passed last week in D.C. offered a constructive starting point for addressing the issue.

[1](#)3. (C) Separately, MFA Deputy European Correspondent Jeroen Boender, who visited Moscow last week with MFA Director General for Political Affairs Pieter de Gooijer, told poloff that Goergia, but not Transnistria, had been discussed with the Russians. He promised to take a look at reftel request.
ARNALL